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### Amendments to Claims

1. (Currently amended) A conduit having its surface or a portion of its surface coated with a fluid-repellent layer wherein said layer comprises, or is produced from, a ~~fluorocarbon silane or~~ a substantially aqueous emulsion; said emulsion comprises or is produced from (1) a fluorocarbon silane or its hydrolyzate, (2) water, and (3) ~~optionally~~ a surfactant, a silicon compound, and a catalyst which is an acid or base, or combinations of two or more thereof; said fluorocarbon silane has the formula  $R_f-(CH_2)_p-Si\{-(O-CH_2CH_2)_n-OR^1\}_3$ ; said silicon compound is a silicate or an organoalkoxysilane;  $R_f$  is a  $C_{3-18}$  perfluoroalkyl group or combinations of two or more thereof; each  $R^1$  is independently one or more  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl groups;  $p$  is 2 to 4; and  $n$  is 2 to 10.

2. (Original) A conduit according to claim 1 wherein said conduit is a nozzle.

3. (Original) A conduit according to claim 1 wherein said layer has a thickness of from about 0.1 nm to about 10,000 nm.

4. (Original) A conduit according to claim 2 wherein said layer has a thickness of from about 1 nm to about 1000 nm.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A conduit according to claim ~~5~~ 3 wherein said fluorocarbon silane is perfluoro alkyl ethyl tris(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)silane, perfluoro alkyl ethyl tris(2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy) silane, or combinations thereof.

8. (Currently amended) A conduit according to claim ~~5~~ 3 wherein said silicon compound is a silicate or organoalkoxysilane, said silicate has the formula of  $Si-(R)_4$ , each  $R$  is independently  $OCH_3$ ,  $OCH_2CH_3$ ,  $(OCH_2CH_2)_mOCH_3$ ,  $m=1-10$ , or combinations of two or more thereof; said organoalkoxysilane has the formula of  $R^2_qSi(OR^3)_{4-q}$ , each  $R^2$  is independently an alkyl group containing about 1 to about 10 carbon atoms; each  $R^3$  is independently an alkyl group containing 1 to about 3 carbon atoms; and  $q = 1-3$ .

9. (Original) A conduit according to claim 8 wherein said fluorocarbon silane is perfluoro alkyl ethyl tris(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)silane, perfluoro alkyl ethyl tris(2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy) silane, or combinations thereof.

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10. (Original) A conduit according to claim 9 wherein said silicon compound is tetrakis(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)silicate, dimethyldimethoxysilane, methyltrimethoxy silane, methyltriethoxysilane, 3-aminopropyltriethoxy silane, N-(2-aminoethyl)3-aminopropyldiethoxy silane, 3-glycidoxypropyltrimethoxy silane, one or more partial condensation products thereof, or combinations of two or more thereof.

11. (Original) A conduit according to claim 10 wherein said surfactant is  $R_f^1$ -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>11</sub>-H, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>19</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>50</sub>-H,  $R_f^1$ -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>SCH<sub>2</sub>CH(OH)CH<sub>2</sub>N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>Cl<sup>-</sup>, C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>25</sub>(OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>OSO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>27</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>Na<sup>+</sup>, or combinations of two or more thereof wherein  $R_f^1$  is a C<sub>3-18</sub> perfluoroalkyl group.

12. (Currently amended) A conduit according to claim 6\_4 wherein said fluorocarbon silane is perfluoro alkyl ethyl tris(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)silane, perfluoro alkyl ethyl tris(2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy) silane, or combinations thereof.

13. (Currently amended) A conduit according to claim 6\_4 wherein said silicon compound is a silicate or organoalkoxysilane, said silicate has the formula of Si-(R)<sub>4</sub>, each R is independently OCH<sub>3</sub>, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>, m=1-10, or combinations of two or more thereof; said organoalkoxysilane has the formula of R<sup>2</sup><sub>q</sub>Si(OR<sup>3</sup>)<sub>4-q</sub>, each R<sup>2</sup> is independently an alkyl group containing about 1 to about 10 carbon atoms; each R<sup>3</sup> is independently an alkyl group containing 1 to about 3 carbon atoms; and q = 1-3.

14. (Original) A conduit according to claim 13 wherein said fluorocarbon silane is perfluoro alkyl ethyl tris(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)silane, perfluoro alkyl ethyl tris(2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy) silane, or combinations thereof.

15. (Original) A conduit according to claim 14 wherein said silicon compound is tetrakis(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)silicate, dimethyldimethoxysilane, methyltrimethoxy silane, methyltriethoxysilane, 3-aminopropyltriethoxy silane, N-(2-aminoethyl)3-aminopropyldiethoxy silane, 3-glycidoxypropyltrimethoxy silane, one or more partial condensation products thereof, or combinations of two or more thereof.

16. (Original) A conduit according to claim 15 wherein said surfactant is  $R_f^1$ -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>11</sub>-H, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>19</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>50</sub>-H,  $R_f^1$ -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>SCH<sub>2</sub>CH(OH)CH<sub>2</sub>N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>Cl<sup>-</sup>, C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>25</sub>(OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>OSO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>27</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>Na<sup>+</sup>, or combinations of two or more thereof wherein  $R_f^1$  is a C<sub>3-18</sub> perfluoroalkyl group.

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17. (Original) A conduit according to claim 16 wherein said conduit is a ceramic, polyimide, or metal, or is produced from a ceramic, polyimide, or metal.

18. (Original) A conduit according to claim 17 wherein said conduit is an ink jet printer nozzle or a nozzle for a machine.

19-29. (Canceled)